

THE WORD OF GOD SEEKS A HOME IN US
15th Sunday in Ordinary time ~ 12 July 2020



Sower at Sunset, 1888 by Vincent Van Gogh

CONSCIOUS OF THE WORLD OVERSEAS & THE WORLD AROUND US

During this time of COVID-19 we are conscious of the world overseas and the world around us.

TWO OLD MOVIES HELPED ME CENTRE MY PRAYER

During the week I watched two old movies, one on Tuesday evening about the church and China and another on Wednesday night about the church and China. Both movies helped to centre my prayer leading up Thursday, July 9th – the [Feast of the 120 Martyrs of China](#).

Many around the world have been praying recently for the people in Hong Kong. Others have prayed for Hong Kong for many decades.

Let us turn to the *Word of God* for guidance. The First Reading about the Word of God can lift our spirits.

FIRST READING | ISAIAH 55:10-11

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

The *Word of God* does not return empty. God never gives up on us.

“

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

ISAIAH 55:10-11

*The Word of God does not return empty.
God never gives up on us.*

THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG

Responses about Hong Kong from the United Kingdom and Canada have already been highlighted in the world media.

On Thursday afternoon we heard some of the details of the proposed response by Australia to Hong Kong, including the offer of safe haven for those from Hong Kong who are studying and working here in Australia. Now comes a time of discernment for each of those eligible.

Let us pray for the people of Hong Kong.

[Prayer for the People of Hong Kong & all the People of China - 7 July 2020](#)

[pause and prayer our parish prayer for Hong Kong]

In our prayer life, we are called to find a deep and fertile home within us for the Word of God to dwell alive and active.

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 13:1-23

The two movies enabled me to focus my attention and my prayer. Jesus often told parables to focus the attention of people. In today's Gospel passage, he focuses our mind and heart on the *Word of God* and response to God's Word.

We hear and we imagine the scene of the sower going out to sow the seed.

We hear Jesus using language that people can understand, and parables from daily life.

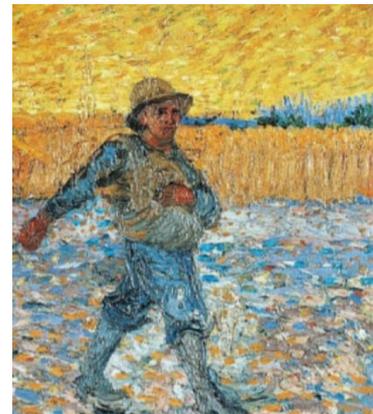
Not only farmers can relate to the parable of the sower.

Jesus is by the sea.

He gets into a boat, sits and teaches the crowd standing on the beach.

He speaks in parables - possibly in the Aramaic language.

And it is recorded in koine Greek in the New Testament.



imagining the scene of the sower

JESUS TELLS A PARABLE OF THE SOWER

***“Listen! A sower went out to sow.
And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path,
and the birds came and ate them up.***

***Other seeds fell on rocky ground,
where they did not have much soil,
and they sprang up quickly,
since they had no depth of soil.
But when the sun rose, they were scorched;
and since they had no root, they withered away.***

Other seeds fell among thorns,

and the thorns grew up and choked them.

*Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain,
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
Let anyone with ears listen!”*

We are invited by Jesus to a deep relationship with God.

We are Invited into a relationship so deep and fertile, that it overcomes

- temporary moments of distraction,
- temptations to give up when the things are difficult
- attempts by others to choke our faith
- visions of false grandeur

We are Invited into a relationship so deep and fertile,

that the *Word of God* finds a home in us

and is nourished and treasured by us each day of our lives.

JESUS EXPLAINS THE PARABLE:

*“Hear then the parable of the sower.
When anyone hears the word of the kingdom
and does not understand it,
the evil one comes and snatches away
what is sown in the heart;
This is what was sown on the path.*

*As for what was sown on rocky ground,
this is the one who hears the word
and immediately receives it with joy;
Yet such a person has no root,
but endures only for a while,
and when trouble or persecution a
rises on account of the word,
that person immediately falls away.*

*As for what was sown among thorns,
this is the one who hears the word,
but the cares of the world
and the lure of wealth choke the word,
and it yields nothing.*

*But as for what was sown on good soil,
this is the one who hears the word and understands it,
who indeed bears fruit and yields,
In one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”*

As we hear the *Word of God* and understand,
we are called into prayer for others.

[CALLED INTO PRAYER FOR OTHERS | OUR SISTERS & BROTHERS](#)

We are all concerned about our sisters and brothers in Victoria during this latest COVID-19 increase.

Some in our parish community have been phoning and emailing and using social media to stay in contact with family, friends and workmates in Victoria.

As a community, we prayed for the partnered parishes of Flemington and Kensington in Melbourne at the beginning of today's Mass.

[Prayer for Flemington & Kensington Communities - 7 July 2020](#)

Let us now pray together for the people of Melbourne and of Victoria.

[Prayer to Jesus for Melbourne & the Communities of Victoria during lockdown - 10 July 2020](#)

[pause and pray our parish prayer for them]

Let us pray that we be continually nourished by God's Word.

We pray that we witness to God's Word by loving our neighbours.

Amen.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200712/mass.htm>

[YouTube video Sunday Mass, 12 July 2020](#)

Prayers are also on our website [prayer page](#)